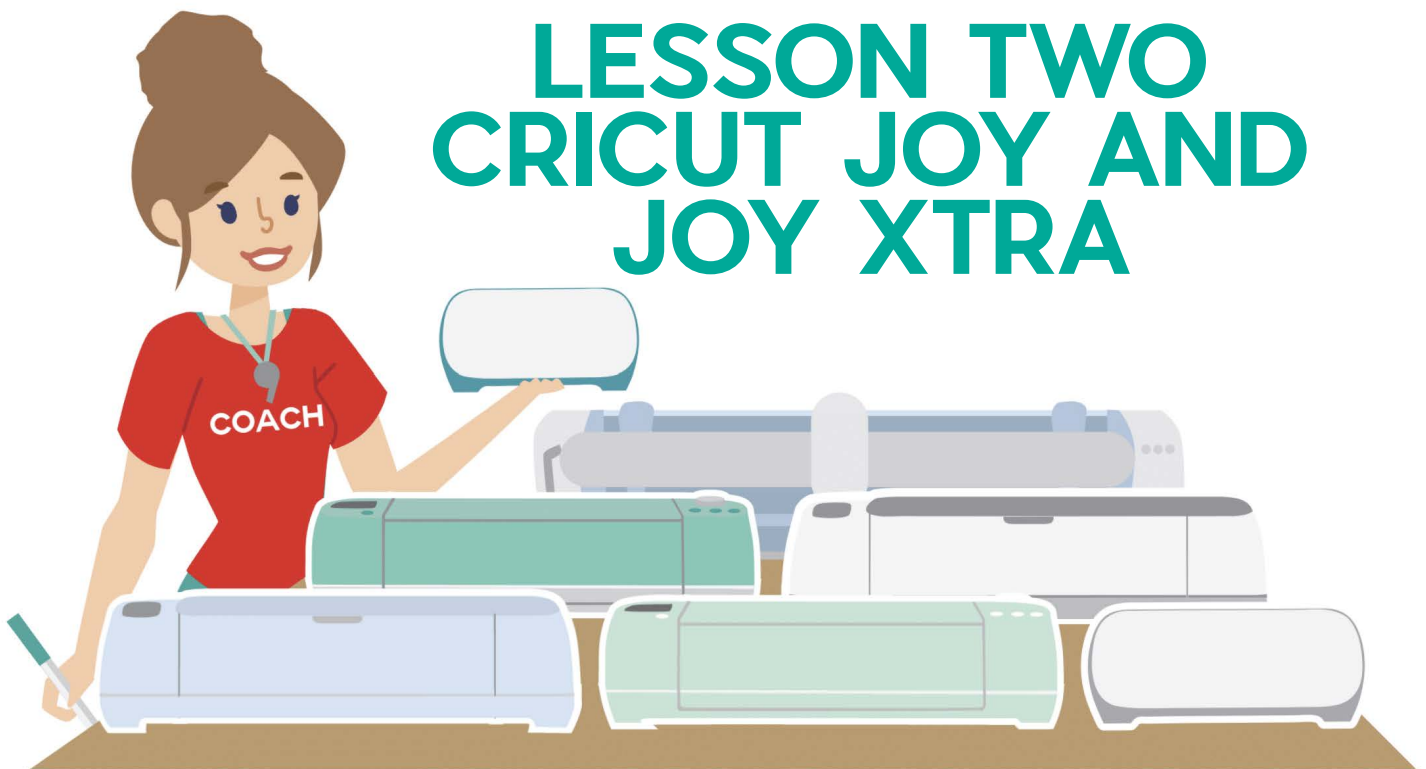


CRICUT® KICKOFF TRANSCRIPT

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LESSON TWO
CRICUT JOY AND
JOY XTRA



SET UP YOUR CRICUT FOR SUCCESS WITH
JENNIFERMAKER

ABOUT THIS TRANSCRIPT

This is a transcript of the edited version of Cricut Kickoff: Know the Tools to Use With Your Cricut Joy and Joy Xtra video. Transcripts are provided for those who prefer to read and/or follow along with a text version as you watch the video at jennifermaker.com/cklesson2.

Please note that this transcript was made using an automated service, which means there may be some mistakes in interpretation of what I said, but we have reviewed it and attempted to correct all errors.

If you have any questions about using this transcript, please join me in my Cricut group at jennifermaker.com/cricutcrafter or email me at hello@jennifermaker.com.

For more Cricut Kickoff lessons, visit makeracademy.com/cricut-kickoff-lessons.

Happy making,

Jennifer



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Hello, everyone. My name is Jennifer Maker and today I am sharing all the must have tools, supplies, and accessories that you can use with your Cricut Joy and Cricut Joy Xtra cutting machines.

This is the Cricut Kickoff Lesson Two.

Now in lesson one where we unboxed the Cricut Joys, you saw that your machine came with a few things, right? So both had materials for a test cut in the white envelope, right, littler one for the Joy, the original Joy, and a bigger one for the Cricut Joy Xtra. They both also had a fine point blade in there, but that's where they differ, okay? After that they should say they differ, the Cricut Joy has a green machine mat in its envelope while the Cricut Joy Xtra has no machine mat, instead it has a Mini Weeder, okay, so that's what came in your box. And then of course the cutting blade itself was in the Cricut Joy and the Joy Xtra machines. It is a premium fine point blade, it's already in the clamp and it includes the housing as well, so the blade and the housing. But there's a lot more tools, supplies and accessories, like a lot, a lot, a lot. And understanding them and knowing when to use them and when not to bother with them, at least when you're a beginner, goes a long way toward making what you love with your Cricut.

Now, before we get too far, I want to remind everyone about my free Cricut Kickoff principal handbook that goes along with these lessons. You can download it right now at cricutkickoff.com, just register for the class and you'll get the handbook. I'll be referring to it as we go along during today's lessons. There are pages in there that list the various tools and supplies.

Let me show you real quick, 'cause this is pretty awesome. All right, so in starting in Lesson Two, you see that okay, so let me go

here 'cause we're on Lesson Two, know the tools to use, right? So we have cheat sheets in here that show the blades for all of the cricuts, but we list which ones are for which machines, pens and markers, mats, places for you to record all the things that you have, the things that you like, all of that, it's all in here.

So definitely get that because, you know, that space to record what you have, so that you know what you have before you start preparing for a project is really, really helpful, especially as a beginner.

So now that we have all that out of the way, I would love to invite you to pull up a chair here in my craft room, and we will get started.

Now since I know you're going to ask me where to get all of these things that I'm about to mention, you can get these things at your local craft store or online directly from Cricut, or from Amazon. In fact, I have links for both of those so let's put this one away.

So for Cricut things, you can go to jennifermaker.com/cricutdiscount, that will lead you to my Cricut discount, and a bunch of the things I talk about, they're linked right on that page. But there's another link and that is this one here. For Amazon I have made a new link, it goes to jennifermaker.com/cricut-joy-must-haves, which you can see here at the bottom. That is a handy Amazon shopping list that links to the specific things that I bought, 'cause I love to shop on Amazon, to show you today.

So, either way, if you prefer to go to Cricut go to jennifermaker.com/cricutdiscount, there's a 10% off coupon code and links there, or shop on Amazon at jennifermaker.com/cricut-joy-must-haves, your choice.

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Okay, so we're going to begin with our blade. No, I need this, let's put this over here. Okay, the blade. So the blade, as I mentioned, comes already installed in your Cricut. This is your first must have tool. The Cricut Joys have just one blade, the premium fine point blade, let me show you what the blade looks like. And, in fact, I would like to try a different camera angle today to see if we can get a little closer.

So this is the blade that comes in the Cricut Joy, this blade is the same as the blade in the Cricut Explorer, okay? So if you need to replace this blade, I highly recommend getting another Cricut Joy Premium Fine-Point Blade, not a knockoff.

And the Cricut Joy and Joy Xtra use this same blade, but be aware that the Joy blades are different than other Cricut, like Explore and Maker blades, right? Your blade is your first must have tool and it is so important to get good cuts.

That said, you probably won't need a new blade for a very long time if you keep the one that you have cleaned. I have never replaced the blade in any of my Cricut Joys, by simply keeping the one that I have cleaned. So if it's not cutting as well as it did in the beginning, it's probably just got some gunk on it, adhesive, glitter, corrosion even. All those things can get stuck on your blade and you just need to clean it off, seriously.

So there are two good ways to clean it, so I would like to demonstrate two different ways to clean your Cricut blade. The simplest and fastest cleaning method is with a ball of aluminum foil. The slower and more careful cleaning method is with isopropyl alcohol and a lint-free cloth. So that means you have two more must-haves, some regular aluminum foil, like the kind you probably have in your kitchen, and/or some isopropyl alcohol and something like a coffee filter, which is lint-

free by nature.

So let me demonstrate both methods for you now, and you can decide which one you want to use.

So we're going to start with the aluminum foil method. Regular aluminum foil that you probably have in your kitchen. You just pull off a sheet like this, and just like a 12 by 12 sheet, and you crumple it up. That's all you're going to do. And you can reuse this, you don't have to do this each time. And this is the method that I've been using for years and I swear by this method, so it's just a balled up piece of aluminum foil, and then you take your blade and you press the plunger right here on the end and, of course, always be careful, this is a sharp blade, right?

So you depress the blade and then you carefully basically poke the aluminum foil blade a bunch of times, a few dozen times, there's no exact number. And what this does is that cleans, it does not sharpen your blade but it cleans your blade, it removes adhesive, debris, dust, oxidation, glitter, little particles, all those things that could prevent a good clean cut. And, like I said, I have been doing this for years and I swear by it. This is fast and easy, you can keep this ball of aluminum foil for whenever you need it. Around here in my studio I have lots of little balls of aluminum foil.

All right, but there is another method and it is a more careful cleaning method. When you do this, because when you do it this way there's a few things that you have to be cautious of. One is, as you do this you can actually push the dirt, adhesive, whatever, the gunk, up into your housing, so right up into here, and eventually over time that could cause issues. I can't say it has for me but it's possible that it could. If you got a piece of paper stuck up in there, right, that could cause an issue. Also, it is possible that,

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like I always worry about, you know, someone poking themselves. I've also seen it where sometimes the blade will get stuck in the aluminum foil, right, so that's about it.

All right, so let me show you the second method. The second method involves some isopropyl alcohol, rubbing alcohol, whatever, okay, and you want a lint free cloth. An easier way to do that though is, oops, to use like alcohol prep pads, just get a box of these. So let's get one out. I'm sure you probably have some of these in a first aid kit, if you don't have any right now, right? So these are, they have alcohol on them already and we just pull out the little prep pad.

Okay, so with the alcohol method we need to remove the blade. I mean, we don't have to but this is the careful method so we're going to go all the way and we're going to do this, okay?

So what I recommend you do is using this cloth to protect your fingers, but please be very careful. I dislike this method 'cause I don't like touching the blade, so be very careful but you can, with the plunger depressed, you can pull the blade out. This is how you would change it too, right? You want to grab it by the, there's like a little shaft there, oops, can you see that? You want to grab it by that part. It's a little bit tricky, please be very careful. There we go, so I've taken it out.

All right, so this is the housing so blow into it or use some compressed air to clean out the housing, because dust, gunk, whatever, can get in there. So I'll just blow, okay? So that's the housing and you want to clean that too, and then here is the blade itself and so we use the alcohol and very carefully we clean the blade, you can just sort of swivel it around in there, we can get it cleaned.

I dislike teaching this method because I worry so much about blades, so please, I'm going to say it again, please be very careful. Now alcohol will dissolve adhesive and it'll wipe away, you know, the other things that can get in the way, glitter and dust.

All right, then we need to get it back in so use that again, depress the plunger again and put it back in there. And then I like to tap it on my surface just to make sure it's seated all the way in there. There is a magnet in there so it will, it should, you know, snap right into place but I always feel a little nervous, so now your blade is clean.

If you do this and you do it frequently, you do it anytime, like pretty much anytime you cut glitter or cardstock, or anytime you notice that things are not cutting properly, this will extend the life so much.

But if it turns out it's just not enough, you can buy a replacement. Let me show you what the replacement looks like so we can discuss that. Hmm, where did it go? Oh, here it is, all right. This is the replacement, it's a blade in housing so you can also just get the blades. So note that it says Cricut Joy and this works for the Cricut Joy and the Joy Xtra, the blades are interchangeable. So when you go to get a new blade, get this blade. And I also really recommend you don't get one of the knockoffs, that you get the Cricut brand. These are their machines, they've got it down to a science and I think it's just more reliable. There may be others out there that are good enough but it's hard to direct you to them, I always use Cricut blades myself. All right, so that is our blades.

Now how about another thing, okay, so while we're still on the topic of talking about this, what goes into here, there is one more tool that goes in here. It's not a blade, but I want to be sure you know about it. And it's right up here.

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And it is the Cricut Joy Foil Transfer Kit. So it goes right into the same clamp and you can use it for foil transfer, right? So while it's not a blade it's really cool, so the foil transfer tool fits right into your clamp and it allows you to transfer Cricut foil sheets onto projects to make really gorgeous cards and paper crafts.

But I do not think the foil transfer tool is a must have, get it only if you intend to do some foil transfer, like, but as a beginner this is something that you can put on your list for another time, okay?

Now let's switch to our overhead. Move our Cricut back here.

How about machine mats? So for those of you who got the original Cricut Joy, you had one mat in your envelope, you had a small, green standard grip mat, but the Joy Xtra had no mat at all in the box. And we didn't even have to worry about it in Lesson One because the Cricut Joy can cut Smart materials, like smart vinyl, without a mat.

But you do want a mat so you can cut all of those other things that are not labeled as Smart material, so mats are a must have, and there are three mats to choose from.

There is the green standard grip map and I'm going to get them all out, let's move this out of the way here. Okay. So this is the Joy and this is the Joy Xtra, right, that's a size difference, right, 'cause they're different sizes. So we've got the green standard grip machine mat and it's ideal for use with materials like vinyl, heavy cardstock, poster board, and smart material or scraps, smart material scraps that are too small to feed through the machine without a mat. This is my go-to mat, okay, I prefer this one.

And we also have the blue light grip mat, and this is slightly less sticky and it's best for use

with light and medium weight paper, medium cardstock and vinyl. Both of these two mats come in different sizes. There are the narrow ones for the Cricut Joy and they only fit the Cricut Joy, and then there's the wider ones that are for the Cricut Joy Xtra, and they only fit the Cricut Joy Xtra. The mats are not interchangeable between the Joy and the Joy Xtra, so pay attention to mat size when you buy them. And the Cricut Joy actually has this short one and this longer one. I'm going to see if I have another short version of that, but you can get it in green and blue. I don't, oh here's another green one, right, a long green one. So I tend to use this one, this longer one more often on my Cricut Joy. And over here on the Joy Xtra, these are just, there's just this one size, okay?

But there's one more mat that's specially designed with a divider to protect the back of a folded cricut insert card while you're cutting the design on the front, and that is the cricut card mat. So here's the one for the Cricut Joy, here's a better view of it, this one's you used but you can see how it's got like a little pocket in it, and then here's the one for the Cricut Joy Xtra, all right? So the way that it works is you just put the, you know, the back of your card here, you just slide it in and then you're able to cut just the front, right? It's really cool.

So one important thing with the card mat, be sure to take the plastic cover off before using it. The first time my daughter went to use it, she didn't realize that she had to do that because it's not quite as obvious as the other mats, okay, so there's a plastic cover, all of them have plastic covers. As I mentioned yesterday, be sure to save your covers so that you have them to protect them.

Now I consider mats to be a consumable and they will not last forever by any stretch of the imagination, they will need to be replaced over time as they get less and less

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sticky or as the adhesive that's on the mat gets, you know, some of it will get scraped away over time or it'll just get too dirty, that kind of thing.

But you can keep them going for a long time, really quite a long time by cleaning them with alcohol free baby wipes. So it doesn't matter what the brand is, it just needs to not have any alcohol in them because alcohol will dissolve adhesive, right, so no alcohol. But if you notice that your mats are not sticky enough, just wipe them down with baby wipes and let them dry. So I recommend you add some baby wipes to your must have shopping list too.

So those are our mats. There are no other mats and there's no, for those of you who are familiar with the Cricut Explorer and Maker and Venture, which has a strong grip mat and a fabric grip mat. Those are not options for the Cricut Joy, so that you're not surprised by that.

Okay. Now in your box you had a pen, so every Cricut Joy and Cricut Joy Xtra comes with a Cricut Joy Pen in the box. The Cricut Joy Pens are great for writing on cards, making labels and embellishing paper crafts. These pens are water-based, acid-free, non-toxic and permanent after they dry. It's very important to note that Cricut Joy Pens are sized only for the Cricut Joy and Joy Xtra's clamp. You cannot use them in the Cricut Explorer, Maker, or Venture, and you cannot use the Explorer, Maker or Venture Pens in your Joy.

Okay, so if you go to the store to buy some, be sure you get the right ones for your Cricut. Now the clamps are different sizes between the Joys and the other machines because the Joys blade had to be specially sized to work the way that it does, right? Okay, so you've got a fine point blade, sorry, you got a fine point pen with a 0.4 size tip in black, with

both the Cricut Joy and Joy Xtra. And on the pen I want you to see that it's written right on the side, "Fine point pen 0.4, black." All the pens are identified this way so that you know, okay?

But there's a lot more pens, there's so many more pens. There are permanent markers, so these are really permanent, more permanent than the other ones. There's things like glitter gel pens, there are opaque gel pens, these are great for dark colors, blacks, they look amazing. More gel pens, permanent metallic markers, so there's lots and lots of pens that you could get. There's also watercolor pens and infusible ink pens, looking for those. Glitter gel pens, pens, I have a lot of pens here.

Are they over here? They are. Infusible ink, pens. So I'll explain what infusible ink is a little bit later, but there's a lot, a lot of options here. Now I suggest that you store your pens, either tip down or on their side to keep the ink ready to flow. This is important to note because the pens come like in a box like this, like they're usually hanging on the store shelves or whatever like this.

So when you get them when they're brand new or if you've stored them this way, the ink really isn't ready to flow, okay, so keep this in mind. So if the pens weren't stored right and don't seem to be working, flip them upside down for a few hours, this typically works. And don't just assume it's no good because right out of the box it's not working, you need to make sure the ink is flowing.

Now I do not think that a pack of pens is a must have when you are just starting out, because you have a pen in the box. So get them only if you need them.

And by the way, I am a strong advocate for getting only what you need when you need it. I don't ever want anyone to buy anything

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that they can't afford, ever, nor do I want you to just be drowning in craft supplies and overwhelmed with what to make. So this is very important to me, that you are just getting the things that you need for your projects.

My recommendation, 'cause at some point in this video you're going to be like, "Oh my gosh, there's just so much stuff, I have to..." Either you'll be like, "Oh, I have to get all this stuff before I can start crafting." Or you'll be like, "Oh, I just, I can't afford it." Or, "I'm overwhelmed and I can't even do anything." This is the two things I notice.

So my suggestion is to pick a project that you really want to do, we'll talk more about them at the end of Lesson Two, and buy just the supplies for one project. Do the project, feel amazing because you did it, and then move on to the next one and get those supplies. This is how I work and this is how I avoid that feeling of "Oh my gosh, there's so much stuff. What do I do?" Even though there is so much stuff, clearly. I just get what I need, aside from teaching you, of course, 'cause that's something I need to teach you.

All right, now let's talk about tools. There are a lot of tools that you can buy for your Cricut Joy and Joy Xtra. Some are useful, some are less so. The ones I recommend you get, the ones that I use all the time are, I'm going to switch my camera again, actually let's bring them over and then switch the camera.

Here we go. I recommend the scraper, this is the scraper, and the weeding tool, which looks like this. These are the must have tools for sure. The scraper is great for getting little bits off of your mats and for creasing things too, but mostly it's for cleaning your mats. I have both a small one and I have a big one, which I also really like. So two different sizes of the scrapers, they're awesome. Now, if you don't want to buy a scraper tool you

don't have to, you can actually use an old store loyalty card, an expired credit card, you know, just one of those plastic cards. I've also used them in a pinch when I like have forgotten or lost my scraper, those work too. These are better, of course, but you can use that if you need to while you're first getting started, but scrapers are definitely a must have.

The weeding tool is used to remove the excess vinyl from a cut, which we call weeding. This is how you get all those bits out of your designs that you don't want. I also use the weeding tool on intricate paper craft projects because sometimes you have to poke out the little bits that don't, they're so small they don't just fall out, right, so this is also another must have.

And then another thing is the spatula, here we go. This is the spatula. The spatula tool is another option, and it's used for removing delicate materials from your machine mats without ripping or tearing. It is super useful if you have a lot of intricately cut cardstock that you need to remove from your mat without damaging it.

So if you were following me during "Merry Maker Mingle," we had lots of intricate projects because I love them. One of them was our Christmas tree and we recommended that you use the scraper when you're removing those little delicate parts, because sometimes they will want to have a mind of their own and they'll stick to the mat and just rip, right? So if you use this you can gently lift them up without damaging them.

So all three of these actually come, very conveniently, in a Cricut Joy Starter Toolkit. You can get this one, but keep in mind that the Joy handcrafting tools like this are not any different from the ones with the Explorer an Maker. So if you have another set of Cricut crafting tools like this one, feel free to use it

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instead. These actually match the Cricut Joy original, they don't match the Cricut Joy Xtra but, you know, there's the three tools right there.

All right, another tool that I consider a must have these days is the brayer. This is a rubber roller that helps you adhere your material to your mat, which means you get better cuts. I use it pretty much every time I put material on a mat, and I believe it really makes a difference in getting great cuts on my cricut. You just press down and you just go like this, right, it's all you have to do. So I can consider this a must have at this point, right? It's a little pricier than the other tools but... And initially I thought, "Oh, it's just an accessory that I really don't need." I don't think I had it for like the first six months of using my Cricut, I was just using my hands to press everything down. And then I got this and I'm like, "Wow. Well, all my cuts are just working out great," like especially if you have a mat that's seen better days, the brayer can really help 'cause it really pushes your material down into the adhesive and it really helps it stick, and that stickiness is so important.

Okay, so let's move onto our next one, which is this one here. All right, another tool that I think is really handy to have is the TrueControl craft knife. It has a special razor sharp and non-stick blade on it, you saw me using it for opening the Cricut boxes and all those seals up, and our envelopes yesterday, right? Craft knives like this are used for doing manual cuts, and sometimes that means a project almost cut all the way through, but it's hanging by a tiny little bit due to a design issue or just a little hiccup, and you can easily cut that out with a craft knife, right, so that you don't have to just start over.

And there's actually, you can get it as a TrueControl Kit, which is just the knife, there's some replacement blades in it, or there's another version that you can get that

actually has interchangeable tips that can change into weeding tools, right? So it's your choice which one you might want to use, there's four different tips, I love using that one, I use it nearly every day. And I personally consider the TrueControl Knife to be a must-have in my studio, you'll see me using it all the time.

Now if you do use the TrueControl Knife you'll also want a Self-Healing Mat, like this one you see right here. This is a Self-Healing Mat right here, this is the Cricut brand, in fact. This is not, however, an adhesive mat like the kind that you put in your machine, but it's rather like an, it's an extra thick mat, you put it on your work surface and you can use it to cut things with your craft knife. I also just like working with it because it is really easy to clean and it allows me to protect my surface.

I'm going to switch my camera down just a little bit so you can see. And the Cricut ones have these cute designs on them, they have different colors, and then on the reverse side it has got a grid on it so if you like those, the kind with a grid. Now, and it's self-healing, which means that it's made of little tiny pieces of material that are pressed together that create a solid surface, and when you cut on it the blade actually goes between these tiny pieces, you can't even see them with a naked eye. This separates the pieces rather than cuts them into the entire surface, right, thus we call it self-healing. I always craft on one of these mats, usually this largest one that I have here which is an 18 by 24, because I also find it so much easier to keep clean than my normal work surface, if I get any adhesive on it I can just use some alcohol to wipe it right up.

Now there's a couple of other tools for the Cricut Joy that are not sold by Cricut, but I still find super useful. For example, some weeding containers. And I'll show you what those look like, I have a few different ones

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here. There's a lot of things on my desk. For a weeding container you can just use whatever you have, of course, but let me show you this one that I really like. It is... Here we go. Actually, it's sold as like a nail polish holder but you can like put it right on your fingers as you're crafting, right, so you can just, it goes right on your fingers like this, right? So you can just, oops, there we go, so you can just see it, kind of like a ring. And the way it works is that as you're weeding something, you can just pick up the little bit of vinyl and you can put it right into the slot like this, and keep going. And that's important because when you're weeding vinyl you want to keep all that vinyl away from your project area so it doesn't slip back into and get stuck onto something else. So this is one version of it, this is what I call a weeding ring.

There's another version of it which is hinged, and it's really similar. Let me switch the camera again so we can see a little higher up, there we go. It's bigger too. It's got a suction cup on the bottom, it goes like that and you can tilt it like this, you know, as you're working on it. So this works the same way, you just pick up your piece of vinyl and it just slides right off into there. And one more, which one you'll get depends completely on your preferences. This one here is a little... Let's move this one over, there we go. This one is a little stand and you would just leave it on your desk and then you can just scrape the pieces of vinyl off into the container like this, and this one also says it's great for resting your tools on.

So those are three different ways and, of course, if you have a Kleenex box that also works great, an old baby wipe container, the ones that come in canisters, you can make your own things. Whatever you have that works for you is fine. I just happen to like these little things here. This is probably my favorite one though, this is the one that I've share the most.

Okay, another one that I really like is, again, not a Cricut branded thing, but you've probably seen me talk about these before, magnifying glasses. These are so cool. Let me grab the box of little... There's different magnifications too. So this is what it looks like and I love it, like, so I used to, before I discovered this I would just wear like extra readers, I would sometimes like have like two or three on my head to see things, 'cause I didn't know these existed. Greg introduced me to these, and there's different lenses in here so you can change whatever magnification you have. They are supposed to work for those who have glasses but it's one of those your mileage may vary things, some people who have glasses love them and some don't. So it's up to you, but I love these and they just go right on like this. They might look a little funny but they totally work amazing for seeing closeup things. And that's a big deal so that you're not accidentally weeding the wrong thing as you're working, right? Some of those cuts can be very tiny.

And now, as I said, like these glasses, all the things I've mentioned are linked in my list jennifermaker.com/cricut-joy-must-haves. I think one of them is missing, maybe one of the weeding tools, but if it's missing, I'll make sure. I keep all of my shopping lists up to date so not to worry if it's missing at the moment.

Now I would like to talk about materials. There are a lot of materials that are specially sized for the Joy and the Joy Xtra. I have some of them here, but one thing I think is really important for you to know is that you can use larger materials, so long as you cut them down to size. So that means that if you have a Joy, especially the original Cricut Joy, a trimmer like this is a must have for getting materials down to the right size for your mat, right? So you can buy the regular size things and then just trim them down.

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The trimmer, for those who are unfamiliar with this, it's got a blade, you can change this blade if it gets dull or you'll lose it 'cause that's totally happened to me. So you just put your material in here and close this.

There's a swing out ruler, sometimes a lot of people don't realize that's there, and you want to put your material up, you know, against this as a guide so that you get a nice, straight 90 degree cut on your material. And, yeah, so a trimmer is just so useful. Cricut makes one but, you know, there's lots of other brands out there too but I have a bunch of these because they came in kits.

All right, so now, as I mentioned, there are specific materials that you can, that are made for the Cricut Joy and Joy Xtra that are special, so let me give you a look at these things.

One of them are these insert cards, so they come in different colors and textures and styles. There are foil transfer insert cards, there's just regular cards, all sorts of cards, and they work in tandem with the card mats that I showed you earlier, okay? So that is one option if you're into cards, there's lots and lots of different ones. There's also vinyls and infusible ink that's sized just for your Joy. So these are the smaller size.

Down here I have vinyl, adhesive vinyl. It comes in both permanent and removable. You use permanent for things that you want to be more or less permanent, like putting onto glass, things that you know you want to stay there. You use removable vinyl for decorating things that you know you're going to remove later or when you remove it you don't want to damage it, like a wall.

And transfer tape, you need to have transfer tape when you use any kind of adhesive vinyl, whether it's permanent or removable,

and they have Joy sized versions. You can of course use the larger version if you want, it's the same stuff.

And then iron on, and all of these, by the way, that I'm showing you, these are smart materials that Cricut makes. Those are the ones that are just like what we did yesterday in lesson one where you didn't have to have a mat, you can just put it right into your Cricut, so that's why it's sized for it because then you can put it right in.

So there's smart iron-on in a variety of different colors, there's glitter, all sorts of cool things, and then there's infusible ink.

Now infusible ink is a sublimation product and it allows you to do sublimation crafting without having a sublimation printer, so they have already basically pre-printed the colors and designs onto transfer sheets and then you can use your Cricut to cut out words, shapes, whatever you want, and then you can sublimate with them. So it's super cool.

There is both infusible ink transfer sheets and there's markers and pens, so you can make mugs and T-shirts and tote bags where the ink just goes right into the surface and doesn't wash away or crack or peel, which can happen with iron on vinyl, but still each has their place. So they're sized materials for both the original Joy and the Joy Xtra, okay? And the Joy Xtra, because it has an extra, you know, obviously it's bigger so it's materials are larger, but it also has that print then cut sensor inside that we don't have on the Cricut Joy.

So we get one more extra material with the Cricut Joy Xtra, which is a variety of different printable sticker paper. So there's a bunch of different ones, there's some that are just paper, there are some that are vinyls, there's all sorts of cool colors, holographic,

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and there's ones that are UV resistant as well. And there's really a lot of stuff, as I was setting up today I'm like, "Whoa, there's so much stuff here." I can't even fit it all here, it's always been a problem though. Even from the very beginning, we've always had issues fitting all this stuff here.

And then for cardstock. Cricut does sell cardstock, it's not typically available like in craft stores you have to order it mostly from [cricut.com](https://www.cricut.com). You can get some from Amazon, but I tend to not use Cricut's cardstock, not because it isn't great quality because it absolutely is, it's amazing quality, but because it's hard to get in the colors I want, it's not their main thing, I have observed.

So I tend to use other kinds of cardstocks that I can get, but your cardstocks, there's so many different brands.

Some of my favorite brands besides Cricut are Recollections, which I have here, it's a shade of blues, and you can order that from Amazon and get it from craft stores.

And I also like American Crafts, AC, which is called AC Cardstock and Darice, which is, I forget what, they're like a child brand of another brand, whatever. But I want to caution you on one thing, and this is something that beginners experience quite a bit.

Whites and blacks, in particular, they can be really tricky, those colors of cardstock, and if you're having a problem cutting white or black, assume the problem is your cardstock and try a different brand or a different pack, or something like that. There's something about the fibers in the white and the black cardstocks that are harder to cut. You may have no issues whatsoever, but if you are having issues you can probably assume it's your cardstock, if it's white or black, I've

discovered. All right, did I miss anything really important? I mean there's so much more. Let me, since we mentioned iron-on vinyl and infusible ink, let me just show you these things.

Cricut sells solves lots of blanks, so these are infusible ink-ready ceramic coasters, tote bags, you could also use these for infusible ink. Either one, I'm sorry, iron-on ink, so either iron-on or infusible ink with these work great. Same for the shirts. These are also infusible ink ready but you could also use them for iron-on vinyl. And, there's really a lot, there's some square coasters. These are aluminum with a cork back. I did a bunch of tutorials on these, if you're curious about how to use them I have tutorials on pretty much everything there is. And then to transfer either infusible ink or- iron-on vinyl or infusible ink, you need a heat source that gets hot enough.

Now if it's iron-on vinyl you can just use your household iron, I have a video on that as well, but if it's infusible ink your iron probably won't get hot enough, it needs to get up to 400 degrees fahrenheit, so Cricut sells heat presses.

This is the mini heat press, and I like to pull this out when we're talking about the Joy because it's so cute and great for small projects, but they also make bigger ones too.

There's a nine by nine and a 12 by 10, and a easy press, and a 12 by 15 Cricut Autopress.

So there's lots of options from small to large based on what your needs are. And, again, I believe in getting the supplies and tools for the project that you're working on, right? So don't, if you resist temptation to just buy all the things that you see, even when you know when they're on sale, because if you don't have a purpose for them then you're spending

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your money, you're taking up space in wherever you're crafting, and some of these things do have an expiration date. Vinyl and infusible ink depends, you know, after one, two, three years, it depends, things will start to dry out or not be as effective, the adhesive will start to age, the ink, all sorts of things, so buy things as you need them.

Please, for your own sanity, because it is really very overwhelming to be like, "Oh, I have to have all these things." And then you get the things, what happens is you get all those things that you think that you need and then you go to make a project, and you still don't have the color or the style or the size you need. This is what I see happening and I don't want that to happen to you, I don't want you to find that you've just spent a lot on materials but still can't make anything, right?

So until our next class, this is Jennifer Maker reminding you to craft a life you love.